and Rs. 3000.00 as monitoring and administrative cost will also be provided by the Central Government for each bank. The bank will be managed by an Executive Committee, comprising of 3-4 members of the bank including at least one women. The grain banks are to be established by Gram Sabha/Panchayats, Self Help Groups or Non Government Organizations (NGOs) in villages notified by the State Governments as food scarce areas. The Executive Committee of the grain bank will lend foodgrains to its members as and when required, maintain the account and ensure recovery of foodgrains as per the laid down procedure.

Revising norms for distribution of wheat and rice

1097. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to revise the norms for distribution of wheat and rice through the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to allot rice and wheat in a 50:50 ratio for rice consuming States and for wheat consuming States in 70:30 ratio;and

(c) whether this has been done due to shortage of about 20.0 lakh tonnes in the rabi wheat procured this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) the norms of allocation of foodgrains @ 3 kg. per family per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) familes under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has not been changed. The Government has, however, decided to streamline the ratio of wheat and rice in the allocation of foodgrains for BPL and APL families on the basis of food habits of each State/UT. The ratio of wheat and rice has been revised with effect from 01.08.2005 on the basis of the following proportion or the existing allocation of wheat whichever is less:

(i) 70:30 for wheat consuming States/UTs;

(ii) 50:50 for wheat and rice consuming States/UTs; and

(iii) 30:70 for rice consuming States/UTs.

(c) This has been done keeping in view the consumption pattern in various states, as well as the relative availability of rice and wheat stocks in the Central Pool due to less procurement of wheat by about 20.0 lakh tonnes during 2005-06 as compared to procurement during 2004-05.

Sugarcane at SMP in Maharashtra

1098. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether purchasing or trying to purchase agriculture commodities at a price lower than minimum support price or the statutory minimum price (in case of sugarcane) is illegal and punishable under the law;

(b) whether in cases where prices are paid over a period of time, it is the price given at the time of delivery, which should be compared with the minimum support prices fixed by the Central Government; and

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has moved, along with NABARD that the sugar factories in the State should not pay more than Rs. 850/- per tonne of sugarcane which is much less than the SMP that would become payable by a large number of factories with good sugar recovery and reasonable transport and harvesting costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the report received from State Government of Maharashtra, the Minister's Committee for the State of Maharashtra has decided that the sugar mills in the State should pay first instalment of sugarcane price to the sugarcane suppliers as below:

(i) Sugar mills falling in the region (s) other than Mahrathwada and Vidarbha Region Rs. 850/-per M.T.

(ii) Sugar mills fallings in the regions of Marathwada and Vidarbha Region-Rs. 800/- per PMT.

(iii) However, in respect of the mills of other region, if there is possibility of violation of NABARD's norms that sugar mill shall be at liberty to pay first insalment of Rs. 750/-M.T instead of Rs. 800/-M.T. After payment of first instalment, concerned sugar mills are at